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Montana Labor Market

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

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FL. 267

NOVEMBER, 1965

Montana Record Breaking Employment Continues

Economic Strength Remains—The Montana economy is exhibiting more than the usual seasonal strength for this time of the year. Record setting employment levels which have characterized every month so far this year give every indication of carrying over into the new year. There were more wage earners, more paychecks, and more job orders from the state's industrial employers this year than last. Industrial job placements by the twenty-two local offices of the Montana State Employment Service during October this year exceeded the October 1964 total by 18 per cent. Farm job placements were up by 29 per cent from October a year ago. Non-farm employers listed 4,152 job orders with local employment offices during October, a gain of 15 per cent from last year. Substantially reduced unemployment claim figures also reflect the brighter economic situation as jobless pay claim totals continue to stay at a ten year low. New claims for unemployment benefits during October this year were down 20 per cent from October, 1964.

Another Record Employment Month—Employment in Montana started to rebound in October after a series of weather-caused set backs in September. Employment data compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics placed an estimated 186,800 on industry pay-

rolls during October, a record for that month. This exceeded the October, 1964 non-farm employment total by 4,600 wage earners.

Manufacturing Up 800—Manufacturing was one of three industry groups to chalk up employment gains during October. The increment was all in the food processing segment with the start of sugar beet refining at four plants throughout the state. The addition of 1,000 workers in this seasonal operation outweighed a decline of 200 in lumber manufacturing for an overall gain of 800 in manufacturing employment. Other employment increases were in government, up 1,300; and construction, up 400.

Seasonal Declines Less Forceful—A scant decline of 200 in non-farm employment from September to October this year was far below employment dips between these two months in previous years. The decline between these two months last year was 2,700 workers. Employment declines were most pronounced in trade and service industries, a normal occurrence for this time of the year with the end of the tourist season. Trade industry payrolls were 1,400 lighter during October while service industry segments recorded a drop of 700 workers.

Insured Wages Up \$27.2 Million in Fiscal 1965—During the fiscal year 1965 (July 1, 1964 through June 30, 1965) an average of 115,124 workers insured un-

der the Montana Unemployment Compensation Law were paid \$564.4 million in wages for employment by 16,143 employers subject to the law. This was an increase of \$27.2 million over the fiscal 1964 insured wage total.

The following table shows gross wages paid by major industries in Fiscal 1965.

Trade	\$ 171,971,821
Manufacturing	\$ 128,764,944
Contract Construction	\$ 75,013,479
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	\$ 57,467,485
Mining	\$ 49,047,655
Service	\$ 47,981,577
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	\$ 32,572,332
Miscellaneous—not elsewhere classified	\$ 1,654,606

70,000 Job Placements—Job placement activities of the Montana State Employment Service kept pace with the record setting Montana economy during fiscal 1965. A total of 70,017 job placements in industry and agriculture was the result of referral of workers to employers by the twenty-two local employment offices. Industrial job placements totaled 35,310 while the farm job total was 34,707. Both showed good increases over the prior fiscal year. About half of the industrial job placements were made in trade and service industries. Industrial employers listed 40,785 job openings with local employment offices during fiscal 1965.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE					
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit		
	Sept. 1965	Aug. 1965	Sept. 1964	Sept. 1965	Aug. 1965	Sept. 1964	Sept. 1965	Aug. 1965	Sept. 1964	Sept. 1965	Aug. 1965	Sept. 1964
All Manufacturing	7.0	6.3	5.3	6.1	5.4	4.0	8.9	6.6	7.7	6.2	4.3	5.1
Durable Goods	8.3	8.0	6.2	7.2	6.9	4.5	9.8	7.7	8.7	7.5	5.1	6.3
Primary Metal	10.8	6.4	8.2	7.0	3.2	2.7	10.8	4.4	7.0	8.9	2.5	6.2
Nondurable Goods	4.1	2.9	3.6	3.7	2.3	3.1	7.0	4.3	5.8	3.6	2.7	2.9
All Mining	5.3	6.9	5.6	3.4	2.5	3.2	11.9	7.6	8.5	5.8	3.9	6.0
Metal Mining	5.6	7.3	6.1	3.4	2.7	2.9	8.9	6.8	9.1	5.9	4.4	6.4

*Less than .05.

High separation rates due in part to above normal quits in Industries 10, 14 and 33.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for November

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg—More hiring occurred in construction, agriculture and smelter operations during October. Construction of job corps camp employees around 100. Smelter continued to hire daily as production schedules increased. Farm job upswing for potato harvest.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—Employment in industry and agriculture was at high volume during October favored by good weather. Over 300 employed on highway construction projects. Good progress on variety of building construction including college dorm, shopping center, elementary school, downtown motel and residential building. Trade employment holds at good levels but some seasonal declines starting in service industry groups. Farm labor demand and supply fairly well in balance.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—An Indian summer labor market reflected good employment trends in most industry groups. Good volume of building construction in progress. Logging and mill employment at peak capacity with continuing shortage of timber fallers. Farm labor demand mainly for livestock care, fencing and general repairs.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—Stable trends covered most industry groups during October sparked by upswing in metal mining. Road and building construction in full force. Plans announced for $\frac{1}{4}$ million apartment building. Downtown site being cleared for new bank building. Trade and service employment active.

CUT BANK—Increased activity in farm and industry maintained during October as good weather prevailed. Total job placements show 100 per cent increase over last year. Main construction activity centered in flood rehabilitation work and two dams. High school students and local businessmen helped with late harvest activities.

DILLON—Agriculture and industry exhibit active trends under ideal weather conditions. Good agenda of construction including building and highway projects in progress. City block being cleared for new shopping center. \$100,000 saw mill under construction to be in production by end of

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Oct. 65	Sept. 65	Oct. 64	Sept. 65 to Oct. 65	Oct. 64 to Oct. 65
Civilian Work Force	257.9	259.0	248.2	—1.1	9.7
Total Employment	251.7	51.8	240.8	—1	10.9
Total Non-agricultural Employment	217.4	217.7	208.6	—3	8.8
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	186.8	187.0	182.2	—2	4.6
Total Agricultural Employment	34.3	34.1	32.2	.2	2.1
Labor Management Disputes	.2	.2	.2	—	—
Total Unemployment	6.0	7.0	7.2	—1.0	—1.2
Percent Unemployed	2.3	2.7	2.9	—	—
U. S. Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.8	4.4	—	—

year. Farm labor demand extremely active, but labor supply adequate.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—Job hiring in construction showed good gains with improved weather. Work continued on 4 highway jobs, new library building, and lesser projects. Trade and service volume at good seasonal pace. Harvest operations completed by months end despite labor shortages.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—Outdoor work continued at good rate with ideal weather throughout most of the month. Fairly good schedule of building projects including new bank and service station. Work completed on retirement home. Construction of new junior college now under way. Sugar beet harvest over with yields below earliest estimates.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—Employment recorded good advances in construction and manufacturing during the month with 90 per cent of manufacturing gains in primary metals. Trade employment shows good gains with most new hires in warehousing, department stores, cafes and hotels. Moderate employment upturn in service industries and finance and insurance firms. Good weather allowed extension of employment for seasonal employees in forest service and other federal activities. Brisk farm labor demand with nearly 400 job hires.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—New applications down appreciably as good labor demand continues. Lumber manufacturing and service industry groups provided most new jobs with worker shortages in both. Woods workers, mill hands and carpenters were in short supply. Sugar beet, potato and hay harvests created good farm labor demand with over 250 workers placed.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—Job hiring in industry and farm exceeded last

year. Outdoor projects will continue as long as good weather lasts. Major work includes \$1 million water line, retirement home and border patrol building. Trade, service and railroad employment holding steady. Farm labor demand down.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—Area economy trends continue to stay on the bright side. Good labor demand existed in all industry groups during October. Cooks, waitresses, sales personnel and building trades craftsmen were in short supply. Several major building projects in future including Capitol renovation and \$3.5 million hospital.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—Labor market reflects some seasonal changes as employment declines in national park, forest service and some service industries. High activity in construction and logging provided most new jobs. Highway, bridge and commercial building projects at steady pace. Good demand for saw mill workers with most going to plywood mills. A state forest sponsored neighborhood youth corps now has 25 enrollees.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—Outdoor work resumed in October after slow down in September by wet, cold weather. Three new construction projects started including 20 room addition to rest home and 2 highway projects. Manufacturing shows some decline with seasonal closure of brick and tile yard. Farm labor demand still fairly active.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—Influx of new workers in area noted attracted by upcoming construction projects. Excavation work for new bank building started on 10-4. Moderate increases occurred in trade industry hiring. Seasonal layoffs in Yellowstone Park continued through the month. Scarcity of

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965	168.3	167.8	169.3	174.2	178.9	187.2	187.3	188.3	187.0	186.8	—	—	—

*Preliminary Estimate

All employment estimates revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period Jan. 1964 to date will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for November

farm labor necessitated recruitment of businessmen and students to complete grain and hay harvests.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—New work applications and unemployment claims at low levels as economy continues to show good strength in both industry and agriculture. Payrolls of most industry groups at peak with hiring chiefly for replacement purposes.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—Outdoor work stayed at near capacity during ideal October weather. Work demand was most evident in construction and manufacturing. Steady hiring trends were maintained in local saw mills and heavy construction. Main street employment holds firm, but some seasonal declines show in a few areas.

POLSON—Despite some normal seasonal changes, labor market conditions remain generally stable. Construction, logging and lumber manufacturing fairly active. Closure of one lumber mill had some adverse effect. More hiring expected at Bee Supply Factory in near future.

SHELBY—High employment maintained in all industry groups during the month. Worker shortages existed in most occupations cutting down on placement activity in both industry and agriculture. Main street merchants and high school students cooperated to wind up harvest and haying activities during short labor periods.

SIDNEY—Employment rebounded in October after weather caused setbacks during September. Outdoor work being pushed to completion before winter sets in. Main street trade and service employment at good levels. Farm job hiring exceeded last year by 39 per cent.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—Seasonal employment declines evident in a few industries including forest service and railroads. Hiring of extra help at lumber mills also slowed. Experienced timber fallers continued in demand with local shortages. Shortages of some food industry workers.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—Steady demand for farm labor existed throughout the entire month with worker shortages common. Construction trends still strong; new projects include sewer and water project and medical clinic building. Oil fields active with average of 5 rigs on drilling locations. Trade and service employment holds at summer volume.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 793 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,191 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Oct. 1965 (2)	Sept. 1965 (3)	Oct. 1964	Sept. '65 to Oct. '65	Oct. '65 Against Oct. '64
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	186,800	187,000	182,200	—200	4,600
Manufacturing	24,300	23,500	23,000	800	1,300
Durable goods	15,200	15,400	13,800	—200	1,400
Lumber and timber products	9,400	9,600	8,700	—200	700
Primary metals	3,800	3,800	3,200	00	600
Other (4)	2,000	2,000	1,900	00	100
Nondurable goods	9,100	8,100	9,200	1,000	—100
Food and kindred products	5,400	4,400	5,500	1,000	—100
Printing and publishing	1,800	1,800	1,700	00	100
Petroleum refining	1,000	1,000	1,100	00	—100
Other (5)	900	900	900	00	00
Mining	7,300	7,300	7,900	00	—600
Metal mining	4,500	4,500	4,900	00	—400
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,100	1,100	1,100	00	00
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,700	1,700	1,900	00	—200
Contract Construction	14,700	14,300	13,400	400	1,300
Contractors, building construction	3,100	3,000	4,400	100	—1,300
Contractors, other than building	7,500	7,600	4,900	—100	2,600
Contractors, special trade	4,100	3,700	4,100	400	00
Transportation and utilities	18,000	18,400	17,500	—400	500
Interstate railroads	7,500	7,700	7,700	—200	—200
Transportation except railroads	4,300	4,400	3,900	—100	400
Utilities including communication	6,200	6,300	5,900	—100	300
Trade	42,300	43,700	42,200	—1,400	100
Wholesale trade	8,800	8,900	8,800	—100	00
Retail trade	33,500	34,800	33,400	—1,300	100
General merchandise and apparel	6,400	6,700	6,300	—300	100
Food stores	5,700	5,800	5,300	—100	400
Eating and drinking establishments	8,800	9,400	8,600	—600	200
Automotive and filling stations	6,600	6,900	6,800	—300	—200
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,000	6,000	6,400	00	—400
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,000	7,200	7,000	—200	00
Services and miscellaneous	25,200	25,900	25,200	—700	00
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	3,200	3,800	3,000	—600	200
Personal services	2,100	2,100	2,200	00	—100
Other (6)	19,900	20,000	20,000	—100	—100
Government	48,000	46,700	46,000	1,300	2,000
Federal	11,800	12,600	12,200	—800	—400
State and local	36,200	34,100	33,800	2,100	2,400
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	22,800	22,800	22,600	00	200
Manufacturing	3,300	3,300	3,200	00	100
Contract construction	2,500	2,600	2,700	—100	—200
Transportation and utilities	2,000	2,000	2,100	00	—100
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,800	5,800	5,800	00	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,500	3,600	3,500	—100	00
Government	4,400	4,200	4,000	200	400
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	25,100	24,900	25,600	200	500
Manufacturing	3,200	2,900	3,300	300	—100
Contract construction	1,700	1,700	2,100	00	—400
Transportation and utilities	2,400	2,500	2,600	—100	—200
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,700	7,700	7,600	00	100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,500	1,500	1,500	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,500	4,600	4,600	—100	—100
Government	4,100	4,000	3,900	100	200

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN OCT. 1965 AND OCT. 1964

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements						UI Claims*			
	Oct. 1965		Oct. 1964		Oct. 1965		Oct. 1964		Oct. 1965			Oct. 1965			Wk. 11-6			
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.		
Anaconda	68	5	54	5	152	16	170	20	117	227	344	48	76	304	380	45	59	121
Billings	463	93	601	99	1,257	234	1,609	274	576	414	990	333	660	458	1,118	254	435	535
Bozeman	254	25	204	24	186	21	243	30	209	126	335	37	204	85	289	37	58	118
Bulie	370	52	276	43	777	76	621	119	203	11	214	36	100	14	114	15	277	350
Cut Bank	78	10	40	6	188	30	140	25	67	113	180	69	34	45	79	40	62	60
Dillon	52	10	69	22	59	1	85	7	41	62	103	28	46	53	99	43	36	44
Glasgow	38	4	52	4	53	1	122	7	102	14	116	29	85	15	100	22	39	75
Glendive	33	1	66	6	96	3	113	10	48	49	97	5	41	35	76	10	31	20
Great Falls	451	47	411	66	912	63	962	194	460	383	843	168	306	103	409	96	272	518
Hamilton	60	3	51	7	156	10	99	8	60	259	319	14	64	251	315	17	32	54
Havre	63	5	81	8	97	17	158	40	75	110	185	32	52	54	106	17	68	114
Helena	190	26	127	20	248	43	285	46	230	45	275	72	158	47	205	60	111	185
Kalispell	275	44	208	29	569	95	453	72	271	52	323	93	236	44	280	69	227	326
Lewisburg	55	6	73	8	77	7	99	8	55	99	154	33	61	61	122	20	39	85
Livingston	60	7	42	1	165	25	143	13	72	30	102	12	86	9	95	25	68	89
Miles City	56	6	67	5	80	5	155	8	70	42	112	26	84	28	112	34	20	60
Missoula	455	36	384	43	874	103	949	133	350	35	385	51	339	44	383	60	160	247
Polson	69	9	36	6	172	31	88	11	34	41	75	13	30	36	66	9	76	76
Shelby	34	4	51	14	45	4	61	12	62	135	197	29	52	36	88	27	21	26
Sidney	53	6	42	6	62	3	73	3	84	51	135	31	60	30	90	19	14	19
Thom. Falls	25	5	30	8	82	18	54	11	26	1	27	3	50	4	54	13	33	40
Wolf Point	37	12	67	19	103	22	107	27	24	45	69	12	28	37	65	10	67	61
Billings YOC**	217	...	...	...	660	...	...	93	6	99	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	3,456	416	3,032	449	7,070	828	6,789	1,078	3,329	2,350	5,679	1,174	2,852	1,793	4,645	951	2,205	3,223

*Includes 156 claims of the Fed. UC Program 288 same a year ago.

**Youth Opportunity Center.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Oct. (1) 1965	Sept. (2) 1965	Oct. 1964	Oct. (1) 1965	Sept. (2) 1965	Oct. 1964	Oct. (1) 1965	Sept. (2) 1965	Oct. 1964
All Manufacturing	117.55	115.46	107.73	41.1	40.8	39.9	2.86	2.83	2.70
Durable Goods	120.13	115.51	107.73	42.3	41.4	40.5	2.84	2.79	2.66
Primary Metals	125.15	127.91	106.92	40.5	41.8	38.6	3.09	3.06	2.77
Nondurable Goods	117.68	114.76	106.62	40.3	39.3	39.2	2.92	2.92	2.72
Food and Kindred Products	98.77	99.14	91.60	41.5	40.8	40.0	2.38	2.43	2.29
All Mining	122.67	122.28	113.85	39.7	39.7	37.7	3.09	3.08	3.02
Metal Mining	118.56	118.56	107.16	38.0	38.0	35.6	3.12	3.12	3.01
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	109.15	115.18	108.19	37.9	40.7	38.5	2.88	2.83	2.81

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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